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4 **Economic Development Commission**
5 **Special Meeting Minutes**
6 **June 7, 2016**
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9 **Members Present:** Joe Mirra, Chairman
10 Tom Collette
11 Gary Fappiano
12 Rosemarie Preneta
13
14 **Members Absent:** Jim Wolfe
15 Mark Gingras
16
17 **Others Present:** Don Roe, Ec. Dev. Coordinator
18 Tim Ryan, Ec. Dev. Specialist
19 Lynn Wolff, Secretary
20 Bob Devaney, Jr., Co-Chair, Wlfd. 350th Jubilee Comm.
21 Tara Gado, Secretary, Wlfd. 350th Jubilee Comm.
22

23 Chairman Joe Mirra called the special meeting of the Economic Development Commission to order at
24 6:36 p.m.
25

- 26 1. **Presentation by Bob Devney, Jr., re: Wallingford 350th Jubilee Committee** – Mr. Devaney
27 distributed and reviewed paper copies of a Power Point presentation that described the work that the
28 Committee has done to date and what they hope to accomplish. *To keep the EDC informed, Mr.*
29 *Devaney asked the EDC secretary to forward to the Commission any 350th Jubilee information she*
30 *receives.* The EDC thanked Mr. Devaney for the presentation; Mr. Devaney and Ms. Gado left the
31 meeting at 6:55 p.m.
32
33 2. **Discussion and Possible Action on Regular Meeting Minutes dated May 2, 2016** – Gary
34 **Fappiano made a motion to approve the minutes as drafted.** The secretary noted that Tim Ryan
35 was not at the May 2 meeting and therefore line 19 will be deleted. **Tom Collette seconded the**
36 **motion. The minutes as amended were approved by unanimous vote.**
37
38 3. **Election of Officers and Chairman Emeritus** –
39 **Tom Collette made a motion to remove the item “Election of Officers” off the table;**
40 **Rosemarie Preneta seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.** The EDC were
41 told that the Mayor had recently accepted Dick Nunn’s letter of resignation from the EDC, which
42 created an opening for Vice-Chair. **Rosemarie Preneta made a motion that Joe Mirra should**

43 **remain as Chairman and Jim Wolfe be elected Vice-Chair; Gary Fappiano seconded the**
44 **motion. By unanimous vote, the motion passed.**

45 Don suggested the EDC honor Dick Nunn's work for the Town during his time on the Commission
46 by electing him Chairman Emeritus and presenting Dick with a plaque. **Gary Fappiano made a**
47 **motion to elect Richard A. Nunn "Chairman Emeritus" and to commemorate this in plaque**
48 **form; Rosemarie Preneta seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, the motion passed.** It
49 was decided that a small group from the EDC will visit Dick soon to present him with his plaque.
50

51 **4. Review of Monthly Expenditure Reports** – No report.
52

53 **5. Committee Reports**

54 • **Marketing** –

55 ➤ Update on promotional projects: 30 second "commercial" card, video, printed pieces, etc.
56 – Tom Collette distributed the final cards. Besides being handed out at trade shows, these
57 1,000 cards will be distributed to Town officials (e.g., the Mayor, Town Councilors,
58 department heads, the Superintendent of Schools) so they can help market the Town.
59 Gary Fappiano asked if the line about our having the lowest electric rates is still correct
60 and on what it that based? Tim Ryan said it is based on the entire bill and it is definitely
61 still correct. Don Roe added that the PUC rate study is being presented at a public
62 hearing on Thursday, June 9; Mark Gingras has said he will attend.

63 Tom said the Committee is also working on videos about the Town; the subjects of the
64 videos are: a place to do business and Wallingford quality of life. Tim Ryan said a rough
65 cut of these was just received today; they will be reviewed shortly.

66 ➤ Update on CERC municipal training event – Because of a problem with the invitations, the
67 May event has been rescheduled to early October.

68 ➤ Update on GIS, highway sign brush clearing project, etc. –

69 Tim Ryan reported that staff met with the Assessor's Office and NE Geo concerning
70 adding GIS on our website. NE Geo said they will build a prototype at no cost to the
71 Town. Once this prototype is created, it will be reviewed by staff and the Mayor.

72 Regarding the brush clearing around the highway signs, Don Roe said this is on hold
73 until the fall.

74 Tom said digital advertising in the Hartford Business Journal is also being done; Tim
75 Ryan added that print ads are also being run in Business New Haven and the Business
76 Journal of Fairfield County.

77 ➤ Next meeting – June 17
78

- 79 • **P&Z Liaison** – Jim Wolfe, although unable to attend tonight, sent a short report to Chairman Mirra
80 as follows:
- 81 ➤ Report on PZC and ZBA actions and Update on Plan of Cons. & Dev., Downtown, TOD –
82 Jim said the Town Council (Ordinance Committee) at its June 2 meeting voted not to have
83 a POCD implementation committee.
- 84 The EDC discussed Bristol-Myers Squibb. While discussing the challenges of
85 marketing a facility of this size, Tim Ryan mentioned it has been determined that the
86 facility can be subdivided to accommodate multiple tenants. This may spur additional
87 interests from real estate developers/investors. Also, the broker has been showing the
88 facility but feels that the State hasn't been helping to funnel businesses toward this facility.
89 Town officials met last year with BMS; Don Roe suggested that it might be time to meet
90 again. A tour is being scheduled for leaders of DECD and CERC as a top-of-mind-
91 awareness initiative.
- 92 ➤ Next meeting – No meeting date was set.
- 93 • **Retention/Incentives** –
- 94 ➤ Update on Bristol-Myers Squibb – Discussed earlier.
- 95 ➤ Discussion re: key accounts program and visitation program –
- 96 ➤ Discussion re: incentive programs—Manufacturers, I-5, Downtown and Other –
- 97 Rosemarie Preneta said the Committee meeting held earlier this evening concentrated on
98 the Downtown/IHZ incentive program and plans to meet with Janis Small and Kacie
99 Costello in the near future. Don Roe explained that the Ordinance Committee recently
100 held a meeting (the EDC was told they didn't need to attend) in which downtown
101 incentives were discussed. The Ordinance Committee asked Janis Small to draft
102 language for an incentive program for review at its August meeting. Janis has requested
103 EDC input as well.
- 104 ➤ Next meeting – June 17.
- 105
- 106 6. **Public Hearing: “Amendment to Chapter 8, Boards, Commissions and Committees, Article III,**
107 **Economic Development Commission, of the Code of the Town of Wallingford”, June 14, 6:45**
108 **p.m.** – The request by the EDC to add alternates will be discussed at the June 14 Town Council; staff
109 will find out if an EDC presence is necessary.
- 110
- 111 7. **Chairman's report** – No report.
- 112

113 **8. Staff reports/regional matters** – The May report (*copy attached*) was distributed and reviewed by
 114 Tim Ryan. Tim mentioned that 27 new businesses have moved in to Wallingford since January – this
 115 is a good start to the year for the Town. WCI reported that in the Downtown, however, there are
 116 currently 9 vacancies; this is higher than normal. It is hoped that the TOD will improve interest in the
 117 Downtown.

118 Don Roe distributed, for the EDC’s review, the Executive Summary from a report prepared for the
 119 Commission for Economic Competitiveness by The Business Council of Fairfield County entitled,
 120 “Connecticut Economic Competitiveness Diagnostic”, April 8, 2016 (*copy attached*).

121
 122 **9. Summer meeting schedule** – A special meeting will be called if necessary.

123
 124 **10. Dates to Remember** – Nothing further to report.

125
 126 **11. Community Involvement** – No items.

127
 128 **There being no further business, Tom Collette made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00**
 129 **p.m.; Rosemarie Preneta seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.**

130
 131 Sincerely,
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 135 Lynn M. Wolff, Secretary
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137 Attachments